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## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), please amend the claims as follows; this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

- (Original) A conjugate comprising a magnetic polymer particle bound to a carboxymethylated aspartate chelating ligand.
- (Currently Amended) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 comprising a magnetic polymer particle bound to a carboxymethylated aspartate ligand chelating a metal atom or ion.
- 3. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 wherein said metal is a transition metal or a metal of group 13.
- (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 3 wherein said metal is Ni, Fe, Ga, Mn, Co, Cu and Zn.
- 5. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said metal is Fe. Ga. Mn and Co.
- 6. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 wherein said metal is in the 2+ or 3+ oxidation state.
- 7. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 6 wherein said metal is Co<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Ga<sup>3+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup>.
- 8. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 7 wherein said metal is Co2+.
- 9. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein there are at least three atoms between the nitrogen atom of the carboxymethylated aspartate ligand and the particle surface.
- 10. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 9 being of formula

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## (MPP=magnetic polymer particle)

wherein the wavy line represents a 3 to 20 atom linker selected from NH-alkylene, NH-CO-alkylene, O-alkylene, OCO-alkylene, S-alkylene or SCO-alkylene.

- (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 10 wherein the wavy line represents NH-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>12</sub>-or NH-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>-.
- 12. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein said polymer comprises a cross-linked styrene divinyl benzene polymer.
- 13. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein the magnetic polymer particle has a diameter of 0.5 to  $8~\mu m$ .
- 14. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 12 wherein said magnetic polymer particle has a diameter of 0.8 to 1.2 μm.
- 15. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 being uncharged.
- 16. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 additionally chelated to a histidine tagged recombinant protein/peptide, His, Cys, Met, Gln, Asn, Lys and/or Tyr residue containing native protein/peptide or phosphorylated protein/peptide.
- 17. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 additionally chelated to a histidine tagged recombinant protein/peptide.

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18. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 16 characterised in that where said conjugate binds a phosphorylatedprotein/peptide, said metal is Fe or Ga.

19. (Original) A process for the preparation of a conjugate comprising a magnetic polymer particle bound to a Cm-Asp ligand comprising reacting a Cm-Asp ligand of formula (II)

(wherein each R independently represents hydrogen or a protecting group and X represents a 2 to 20 atom group) with a magnetic polymer particle, and optionally coordinating the resulting conjugate to a metal atom or ion.

20. - 26. (Cancelled)